

REMARKS

The Examiner granted and conducted an interview with the undersigned on January 12, 2006, for which the applicant wishes to express its thanks. The undersigned attorney, during the interview, presented an argument that the claimed invention sends a translated response packet directly to the client, thereby bypassing the NAT machine, while the Bector reference contains no such teaching. The undersigned indicated that under the teachings of Bector, the response packet always go back to the NAT machine before being routed to the client. The Examiner acknowledged the difference but requested that the applicant clarify the function of the NAT machine in the claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the NAT machine performs an inbound translation on the client packet and forwards the translated client packet to one of the servers and that the server prepares a response packet and sends the response packet directly to the client. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, line 12 to page 7, line 2 of the specification. Claim 15 has been similarly amended. Claim 9 already recited that the inbound translation was performed by the NAT machine to produce a translated client packet; however, claim 9 has been amended to specify that the translated client packet is sent to one of the servers.

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue an early Notice of Allowance.

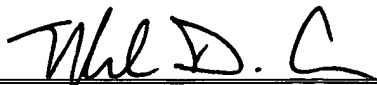
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee for filing an RCE to Deposit Account No. 09-0461. The extension of time fee is authorized to be charged to the credit card identified on the enclosed Form PTO 2038.

Respectfully submitted

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Date



Mark D. Simpson, Esquire
Registration No. 32,942

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP
2600 ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Telephone: (215) 923-4466
Facsimile: (215) 923-2189